

REMARKS

Claim 13 has been amended to replace "apparatus" recited in the sixth line of the claim with --method--. This amendment has been made to correct an error in the amended Claim 13 as presented in the Preliminary Amendment.

Claims 19 - 37 have been added to claim additional subject matter presented in the specification, but previously unclaimed. Support for the added claims can be found in the specification and the claims as originally filed. The Applicants submit, therefore, that the new claims do not add new matter to the application and may be properly entered.

Specifically, new Claim 19 recites, in part, "a plurality of audio packs, each audio pack containing one or more frames of audio data and associated audio pack attribute information; a plurality of audio tracks, each audio track comprising one or more audio packs; a plurality of audio management information areas, each audio management area containing audio attribute information for one or more audio tracks of the plurality of audio tracks; and a centralized audio attribute information area containing an aggregation of the audio attribute information from the plurality of audio management information areas." Support for "audio packs" and "audio pack information" may be found in the specification at page 19, lines 23 - 25, and figure 3. Support for "audio track" may be found in the specification at page 40, lines 25 - 29. Support for "audio management information" may be found in the specification at page 21, lines 14 - 17. Support for "centralized audio attribute information" may be found in the specification at page 21, lines 12 - 25 and figure 6. Support for new Claim 20 may also be found in figure 6. Support for new Claim 21

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may be found at page 21, lines 12 - 25. Support for new claims 22 - 37 may be found in Claims 1 - 15, as originally filed.

The Applicants submit that the new Claims are patentable over the previously cited prior art. Specifically, the Applicants submit that the previously cited prior art does not teach, describe, or suggest "a centralized audio attribute information area containing an aggregation of the audio attribute information from the plurality of audio management information areas" as claimed in new Claim 19.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415. ✓

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231 on

July 30, 2001
(Date of Deposit)

Ross A. Schmitt
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7-30-2001
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APPENDIX

MARKED VERSION TO SHOWS CHANGES MADE

13. (Twice Amended) A reproduction method of an information storage medium comprising: a plurality of unit audio information to be reproduced independently of each other; aggregate audio information each including one or more of the unit audio information; and unit attribute information indicating attributes of the unit audio information included in the aggregate audio information, the [apparatus] method comprising:

reading the unit attribute information corresponding to the aggregate audio information recorded on the storage medium to produce an aggregate attribute information table aggregating the unit attribute information collectively;

storing the aggregate attribute information table produced into a storage unit;

receiving, from a user, a reproduction instruction designating a plurality of unit audio information to be reproduced successively;

setting the attribute for the reproduction based on the aggregate attribute information table stored in the storage unit; and

reproducing the unit audio information designated by the user in accordance with the attribute set, wherein said reproducing step comprising the steps of:

obtaining the attributes corresponding to each of the plurality of unit audio information designated by the user from the aggregate attribute information table stored in the storage unit;

determining whether or not the attributes of the unit audio information to be successively reproduced are identical; and

starting an attribute setting of the unit audio information to be reproduced next immediately after the reproduction of the unit audio information currently reproduced, if it is determined in the determining step that the attributes are different.